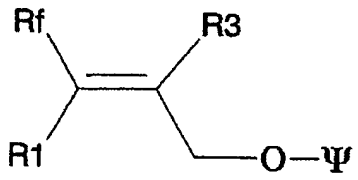
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-24 (Canceled)

25. (New) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

R_f is a radical carrying a perfluoromethylene group, which group provides the link with the remainder of the molecule;

R_1 and R_3, which are the same or different, represent hydrogen, alkyl or aryl radicals; and

Ψ is an electron-withdrawing group such that Ψ-O-H is an acid with a pKa value in water of at most 8, optionally of at most 5.

26. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 24, wherein Ψ is an electron-withdrawing group such that Ψ-O-H is an acid with a pKa value (in water) of at least 1, optionally of at least 2.

27. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein at least one of the R_1 and R_3 groups is a light alkyl of at most 4 carbons or a hydrogen.

28. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein the R_f radical is of formula (II):

$$EWG\text{-}(CX_2)_p\text{-}$$

wherein:

the X units, which are identical or different, represent a chlorine, a fluorine or a radical of the formula C_nF_{2n+1} with n an integer at most equal to 5, optionally to 2, with the proviso that the X units of the methylene group carrying the open bond are not chlorines and that at least one of them is a fluorine;

EWG is a hydrocarbon or electron-withdrawing group with an Hammett constant σ_p being > 0, optionally at least equal to 0.2, which is inert and, when p is equal to 1, is an electron-withdrawing group; and

p is a positive integer.

29. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein R_1 is hydrogen.

30. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein R_3 is hydrogen.

31. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein R_1 and R_3 are hydrogen.

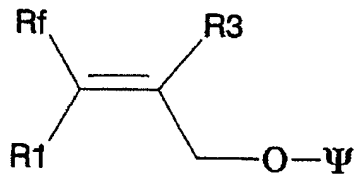
32. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein R_f is a perfluoroalkyl of general formula C_rF_{2r+1} where r is a positive integer ranging from 1 to 10, optionally from 1 to 3.

33. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein R_f is trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl or heptafluoropropyl.

34. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein Ψ is an acyl.

35. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein Ψ is an acyl such that the pKa value of Ψ-O-H is at least equal to 2 and optionally Ψ-O-H is an alkanoic acid with from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

36. (New) A process for the synthesis of a compound of formula (I) of the formula:



wherein:

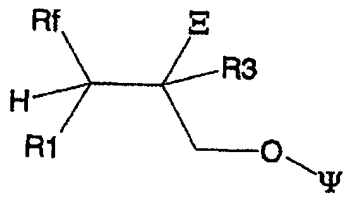
R_f is a radical carrying a perfluoromethylene group, which group provides the link with the remainder of the molecule;

R_1 and R_3, which are the same or different, represent hydrogen, alkyl or aryl radicals; and

Ψ is an electron-withdrawing group such that Ψ-O-H is an acid with a pKa value in water of at most 8, optionally of at most 5

said process comprising the steps of:

a) reacting a compound of formula (III):



where Ξ is a leaving group chosen from pseudohalogens and halogens, with a strong nitrogenous base, the associated acid of which exhibits a pKa value of at least 12, and/or an anionic base, with the proviso that, when the base is a nonnitrogenous anionic base, the latter is in the presence of a polar solvent or a mixture of polar solvents.

37. (New) The process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the base is a nonnitrogenous anionic base and said polar solvent exhibits a solvent with a donor number of at least 10, optionally of at least 20.

38. (New) The process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the base is a nonnitrogenous anionic base and said polar solvent is a solvent which is miscible with water in any proportion.

39. (New) The process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the base is a nonnitrogenous anionic base and in said polar solvent does not exhibit an acid functional group, that is to say that the pKa value of the most acidic hydrogen of said solvent is at least equal to 20, optionally to 30.

40. (New) The process as claimed in claim 36, wherein said base is a nitrogenous anionic base being an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal salt, of silylated amines and silylamines.

41. (New) The process as claimed in claim 40, wherein said base is the anion of a silylamine of an alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salt of HMDZ (hexamethyldisilazane).

42. (New) The process as claimed in claim 36, wherein said base is in the presence of a polar solvent, optionally a polar aprotic solvent.

43. (New) The process as claimed in claim 36, wherein said base is a base carrying at least 2 trivalent nitrogens.

44. (New) The process as claimed in claim 36, wherein said base carrying at least 2 trivalent nitrogens is such that said 2 nitrogens are conjugated via at least one double bond.

45. (New) The process as claimed in claim 44, wherein said base carrying at least 2 trivalent nitrogens is such that said 2 trivalent nitrogens form a bonding system comprising an imine conjugated with the doublet of an amine.

46. (New) A process for the synthesis of a nitrogenous heterocycle, comprising the step of carrying out a cyclocondensation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 25 as precursor of a heterocycle substituted by an R_f group, with a cosubstrate carrying 2 double bonds.

47. (New) The process as claimed in claim 46, wherein said cyclocondensation is of 3+2 type.

48. (New) The process as claimed in claim 47, wherein the cosubstrate is an organic compound carrying a pentavalent nitrogen, at least one double bond of which connects said nitrogen to a carbon.